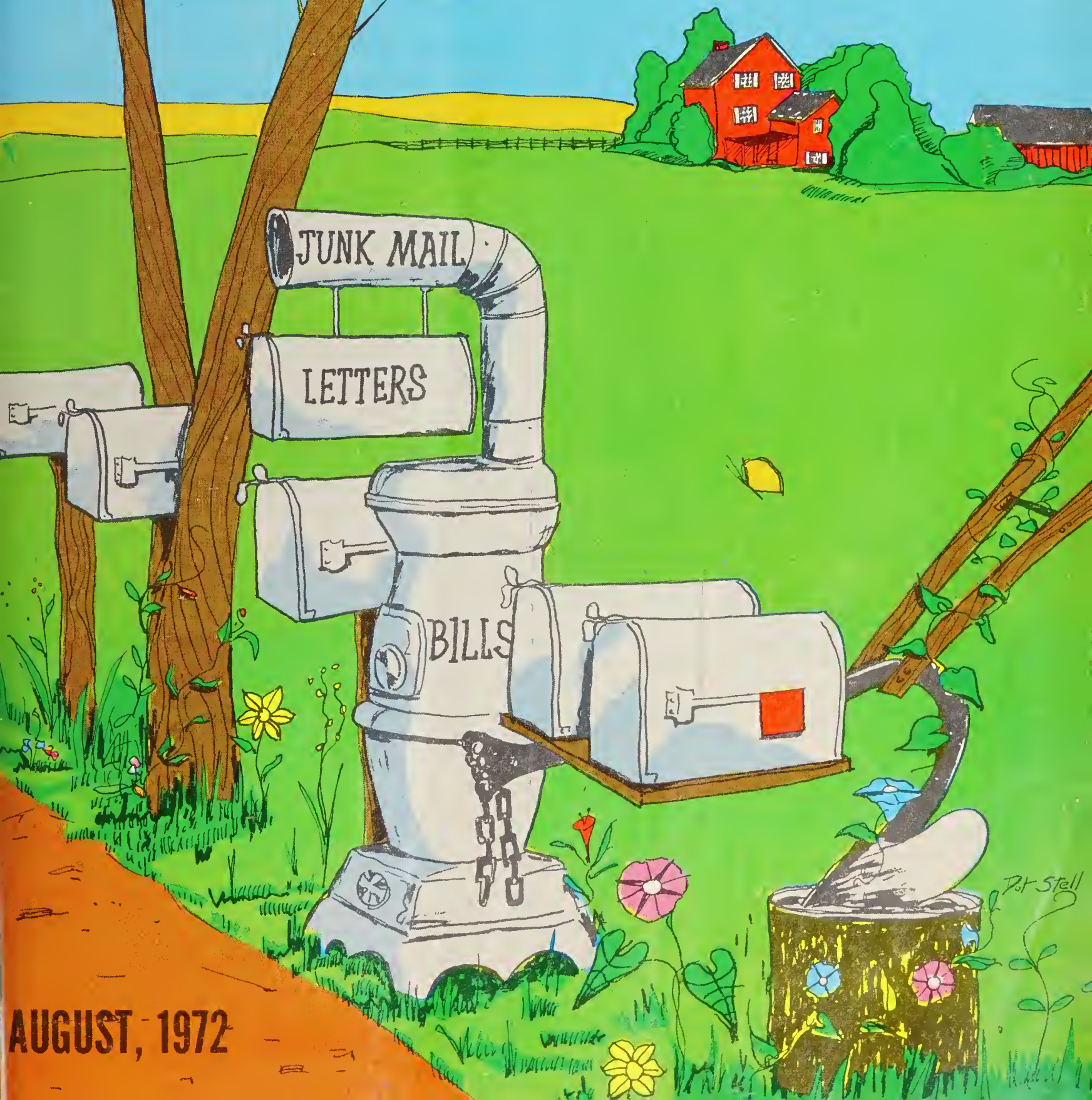


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Carolina Homemaker Editor

Official Publication
North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation

J.C. Brown, Jr. General Manager

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Vol. 4

No. 8

August, 1972

Wrathful Agnes Left a Message

The unprecedented devastation triggered by the rains Hurricane Agnes dumped along her way up the Atlantic seaboard proved anew in tragic losses of lives and property the need for flood control projects.

Flood control means dams, dams to catch and hold flood waters and release them gradually, dams like that at Kerr Reservoir and long long needed in the Cape River basin like that started at New Hope — dams and river basin development.

Weighed against the deaths, suffering and damages attributable to wrathful Agnes, federal funding for all the dams needed in all the river basins in all the states she hit, dams which might have held her floods in check, as Kerr Dam did down the Roanoke, would be a bargain in flood protection. Add the damages of future floods, and the cost of river basin development stands cheap at any price.

Kerr Dam, already has paid out its costs many times over in that sense. Without it, the Roanoke basin would face every hurricane season repetitions of the disastrous flood of August 1940, and every dry summer could mean low water problems downstream.

When a dam is built, water is impounded. When water is impounded, it can be used to spin turbines for hydroelectric generation. Without the electricity generated at Kerr Dam, the power shortage in North Carolina and Virginia would be even more severe. Certainly, the rates paid by consumers of co-op and municipal electric systems would be higher, because Kerr Dam electricity has been a critical factor in the negotiation of their wholesale power supply contracts.

Hydroelectric generation is the cleanest, cheapest way to produce electric power. It is also an important plus in offsetting the cost of river basin development. Admittedly, it won't in itself solve the energy crisis, but projects like Kerr Dam show that if all potential sites were utilized it would help.

As the nation tallies the costs of Agnes' floods, Congress and the Corps of Engineers should re-evaluate such projects. And in doing so, decision makers should use valid criteria in determining feasibility. Not criteria rigged as is the case now to rule out hydroelectric generation. But criteria which take into account all considerations, including Agnes.

Jim Chaney

COVER — The pot-bellied stove mailbox was concocted just for fun. Dot Stell, the Raleigh newspaper artist, gave the idea form and color and created what we hope is an attractive and appropriate cover. Appropriate because we have a picture story in Carolina Country this month featuring just a few of the many unorthodox mailboxes and stanchions we've seen along the roadsides of North Carolina. We haven't seen a mailbox with a depository for junk mail, but we suspect there are some. If there aren't, there ought to be.

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CAROLINA COUNTRY (formerly THE CAROLINA FARMER) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT RICHMOND, VA., 23219. EDITORIAL OFFICES, SUITE 911, BRANCH BANK BUILDING, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602. POSTMASTER, SEND FORM 3579 TO BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602. EMC GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS, 75 CENTS A YEAR; INDIVIDUALS \$1. ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO: CAROLINA COUNTRY, BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N.C. 27602.



INSIDE CAROLINA COUNTRY

a commentary by J.C. Brown Jr., general manager,
North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

Gwyn Price Retires as REA Chairman

A KEY FIGURE in the state and national development of rural electrification, Gwyn B. Price, retired as Chairman of the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority on June 30.

Mr. Price was a leader in the establishment of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation prior to becoming chairman of the State REA in 1941. From that date, he was instrumental in the organization and growth of every Electric Membership Corporation and Telephone Membership Corporation in the state. His active career spans the time when only 3 percent of North Carolina's farms had electricity to today when almost 100 percent have service.

In addition to his official duties as being responsible for approving every loan application from North Carolina submitted to the Federal REA, Mr. Price has been an irreplaceable advisor to the managers and directors of the membership corporations.

Mr. Price has been an intimate of every Federal REA Administrator, and his influence in Washington greatly speeded the rural electrification movement in North Carolina.

He served in his post under eight governors. In accepting his resignation, Gov. Bob Scott wrote the following letter to Mr. Price:

"It is with a sense of deep appreciation, great admiration and much regret that I accept your resignation as Chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority effective June 30, 1972.

"Your truly outstanding record of service to the citizens of our State for more than thirty-one years is one of which you can be proud and the State of North Carolina can be grateful. Few people have rendered more capable or longer service in our state government than have you. Surely, it must be a source of satisfaction to you to realize the tremendous progress that has come to our rural people in the way of rural electrification and rural telephone programs during your administration. You have reason to be proud of the fact that you guided this growth and progress from its infancy through maturity.

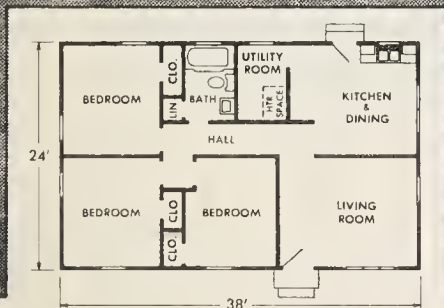
"The result of your labors has left a lasting impression upon the face of North Carolina and your name will be rightfully recorded along with the other great rural leaders of our State, such as Clarence Poe, I.O. Schaub, David Weaver, Kerr Scott, L.R. Harrill, Harry B. Caldwell, John A. Arey, and others.

"I am pleased that you agreed to serve during my administration as Governor even though I have known of your desire for some time to relinquish the responsibilities of your office. I am grateful to you for your willingness to assist me as you did my father in building a better North Carolina . . ."

N.C. Electric Membership Corporation will honor Mr. Price at a banquet to be held at the Hotel Durham on August 15.



The 3-bedroom OXFORD

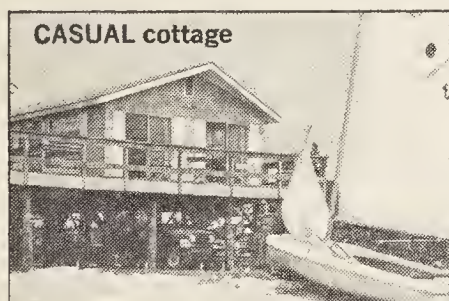


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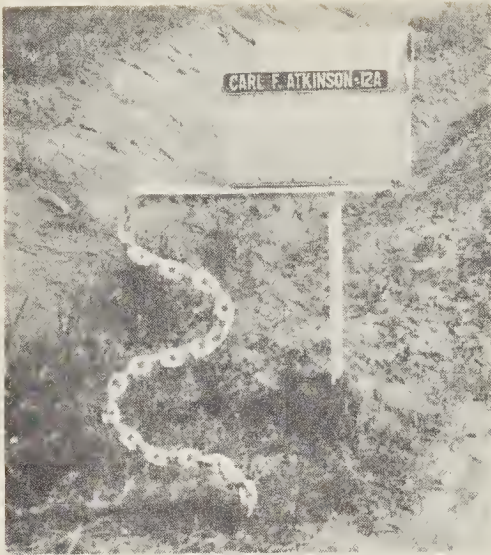
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I own property in _____

county.



R.F.D. Plus-- Something More Than a Mailbox

Photos by Ed Brown, Jr.

The one-horse plow and the old iron pump haven't vanished from the countryside. Dozens can be seen across rural North Carolina today supporting mailboxes.

They serve, as do other relics of the rural scene put to similar use, to link the state's agricultural past with its suburban present.

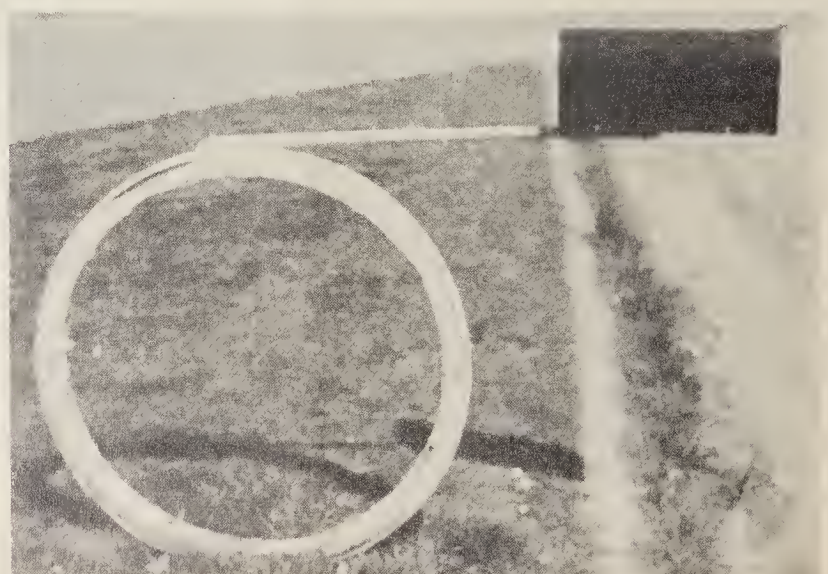
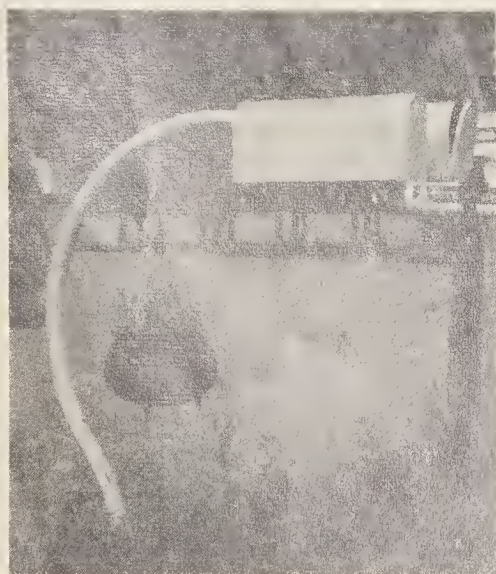
People have been expressing their individuality, creativity and imagination in mailboxes and stanchions for as long as Americans have had rural free delivery.

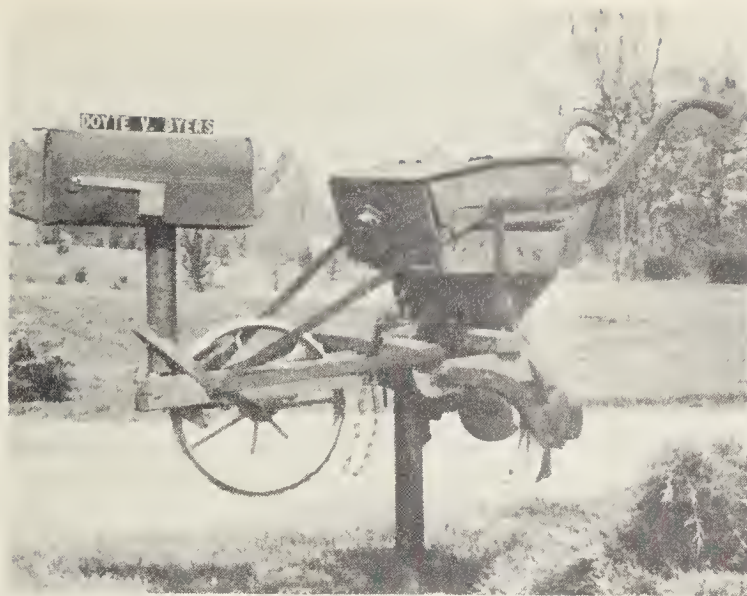
In the early days, some R.F.D. patrons expressed themselves with considerably less restraint than is now permitted. Just about anything that could be nailed to a fence or set on a post was used, and rural carriers making their rounds often had to leave mail in old cans, cigar boxes, drainage pipes, soap boxes (in the days of wooden boxes) or whatever else the patron cared to erect.

The Post Office Department soon realized things were getting out of hand. Government standards were adopted and mailboxes had to be approved. If a box was too unsuitable, the carrier could refuse to recognize it as a stop.

Even so, individualists were undaunted. There were always ways to get around regulations and to beat the standards. You have only to look from your car as you drive along country roads and through suburban areas to see examples of the many ways a mailbox can be made to look like something else.

You'll see mailboxes that look like miniatures of the houses before which they stand and mailboxes that look like barrels, or log cabins, or birdhouses, or covered wagons. You'll see mailboxes in bowers, or with ivy climbing about their supports,





or set on trelliswork with roses blooming in season, or primly held erect on a section of pipe, or resting indifferently on the tops of old oil drums.

And wagon wheels. They are often used, with mailboxes spaced around their circumferences and with a post and axle through their hubs, so the carrier can turn the wheel to reach each box in turn. Old auto wheels and even bicycle wheels sometimes serve in a like manner.

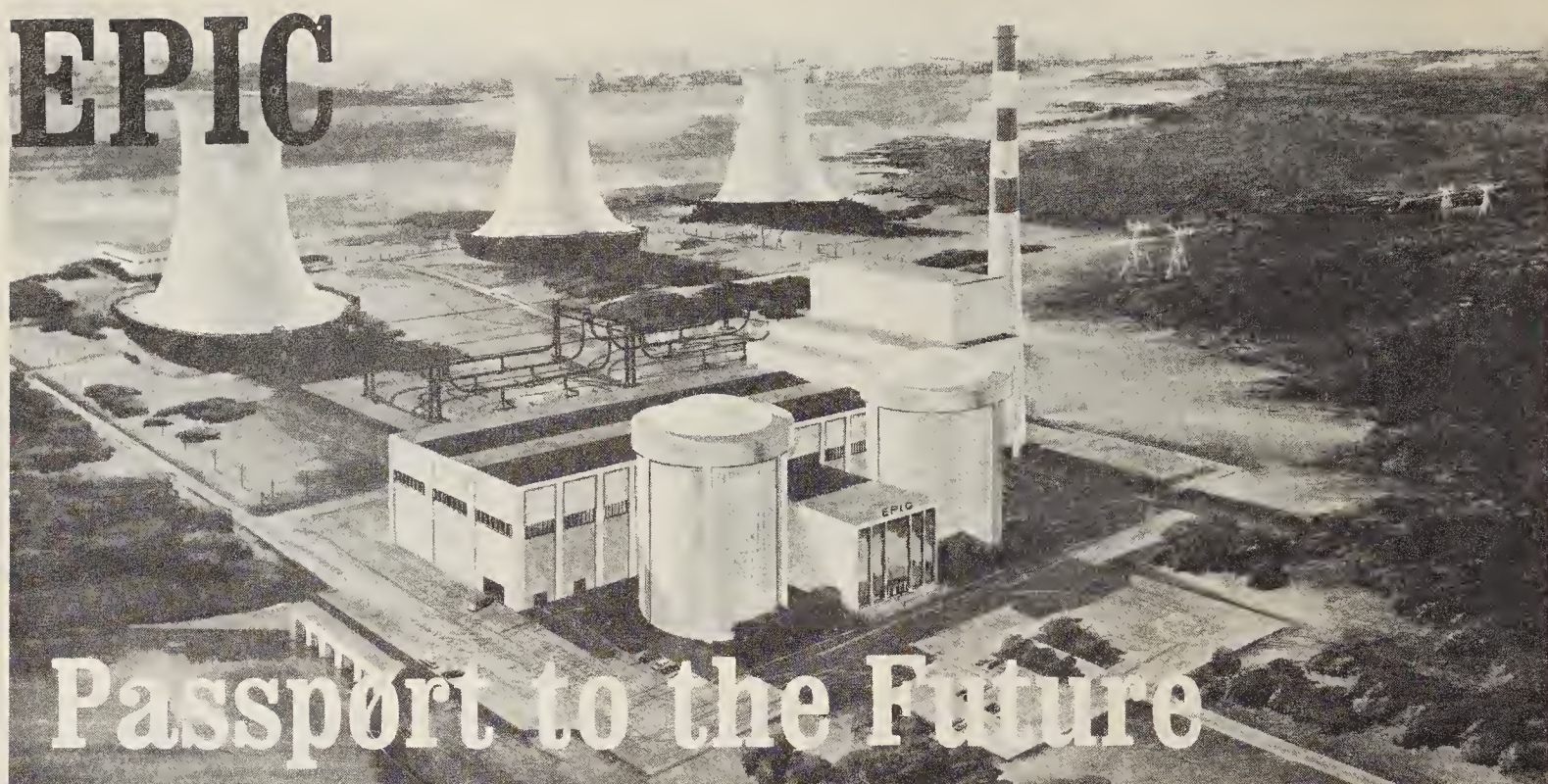
When R.F.D. was begun Oct. 1, 1896, it was largely a service for farmers. Today's route carriers serve fewer farmers but many more Americans of all interests and classes. During the past three decades, the number of patrons receiving rural delivery has increased 40 percent, and the 30,981 rural mailmen across the nation travel approximately 2 million miles a day making deliveries to more than 36 million patrons.

Old plows and pumps, and wagon wheels, tell how it used to be but they are too often found along R.F.D. routes to be favored now by the true individualist. He has attempted to be different by using forged sections of heavy chain in place of posts, or by fixing brackets to old guns. And here and there he has erected his box on the outstretched arms of a cut-out of Uncle Sam gaily painted red, white and blue.

There are many ways to mount a mailbox and to disguise one, and if you'll watch as you drive you'll see nearly every idea somewhere along the road.

Jim Chaney





When North Carolina's EMCs (electric membership corporations) and ElectricCities incorporated EPIC in March 1970, they acted in the face of a power shortage, rising rates and spiraling demands to assure their consumers of adequate, reasonably priced electricity. EPIC (Electric Power in Carolina) will accomplish that by building and operating a generating and transmission system which in addition to serving the electric cooperatives and municipalities will make electric power more abundant to all North Carolinians. Reading between the lines of a Federal Power Commission report, the author brings out EPIC is a logical and practical answer to key questions the report raises. One of them, he notes, is the mounting cost of producing electricity. This, he shows, is "exactly the area in which EPIC will be of the greatest benefit." A graduate electrical engineer and lawyer, his article states the case for EPIC as pragmatically as a legal brief and as objectively as an engineering feasibility study.

By Gary Tabak

Executive Vice President, Electric Power in Carolina

The issuance of a major report from a Federal agency has become so commonplace there is a tendency to dismiss it even before considering its implications. This should not be the case with the recently completed National Power Survey, authored by the Federal Power Commission. This is the second of such reports. The first was issued in 1964 and, without question, exerted a major influence on the electric power industry.

The lateness of the recent report — it is actually entitled, "The 1970 National Power Survey" — as well as its tone, are the clues to its interpretation. In 1964, the Federal Power Commission was in the process of revitalizing itself as an aggressive regulatory body determined to protect both the industry and the consumers it served. In my opinion, the present makeup of the FPC is less concerned with the interests of the latter group — the consumers — and this attitude is reflected in the National Power Survey.

Everyone is now aware that this country is facing what is commonly called an "energy crisis." The raw statistics released in the FPC report merely confirm it. The nation's electric energy requirements are projected to quadruple from 1970 to 1990, with installed generating capacity climbing from 340,000 to 1,260,000 megawatts. Accounting in part for this dramatic increase is an upward revision of average reserve margins from 15 to 20%, the lower figure having seemed possible in the 1964 Survey.

The percentage distribution of the type of generation — thermal or hydroelectric — will stay relatively constant during the 1970 to 1990 period, with hydroelectric facilities decreasing from 16 to 12% and thermal growing from 84 to 88%.

The fuel utilized for thermal generation, however, will undergo a major shift. Coal is expected to drop from 54% in 1970 to 30% in 1990, while natural gas will decrease from 29 to 8% in the same time span. Use of residual fuel oil will also drop from 15 to 9% by 1990. At the same time, the fuel source of the future — nuclear — will jump in utilization from 2% in 1970 to a whopping 53% by 1990.

In what appears to be an acceptance of a recent upward cost trend extending well into the future, the FPC estimates the average actual cost per kilowatt-hour will increase from 1.54 cents in 1968 to approximately 1.83 cents by 1990, measured in 1968 dollars. If you allow for the same rate of inflation that took place between 1962-1968, the average cost in current dollars of a kilowatt-hour will climb to 3.48 cents by 1990, more than double the 1968 cost level.

The higher costs are attributable to environmental protection and enhancement features; sharply increased competition for fossil fuels; and rising fixed charges for this very capital-intensive industry. The importance to EPIC of this latter factor will be alluded to later in this article.

What is also most interesting is the 1990 protection for

the costs attributable to each of the three phases of supplying power - generation, transmission, and distribution. In 1968, the generation phase accounted for 50% of total costs, yet by 1990, it is predicted this element will climb to 60%. The FPC, which has a great deal to say about cost levels, predicts the inevitable impact of recent cost increases still remains to be felt by the consumer. This is so because of a large base of imbedded capital investment which dilutes the immediate effect of investment in new facilities at inflated costs, and the time lag involved in rate adjustment procedures.

On the lively subject of environmental protection, the report offers little in the way of substantive recommendations. The Commission noted that many people are calling for curtailment of power growth in the interest of environmental protection. This segment of the society, the report concludes, advances this argument without appreciating how fundamental electricity is to the human environment as well as to the nation's economy. The FPC believes the key to solving this dilemma is the "common sense" of the average citizen. Hardly the type of concrete recommendation that can be acted upon by the leaders of the industry.

In reviewing the structure of the electric power industry, the FPC found the investor-owned segment accounting for 77% of the nation's installed capacity. The federally-owned systems make up about 11.5% of the total generation, with other public bodies accounting for 10.5%. The rural electric cooperatives own only about 2% of the total generating capacity.

The FPC, commenting on the trend toward consolidation, said the existence of many small separate systems "creates difficulties." The Commission believes pooling and coordination will solve some of the multiplicity problems and will probably lead toward needed consolidation of management. The report concluded that "the electric utility industry *can* achieve full coordination, without altering its pluralistic character, by coordinating the planning, construction, and operating activities of all utility groups in areas with loads of sufficient size to realize all the potential benefits of modern technology, and by strengthening generation and transmission facilities as necessary to assure adequacy and reliability of power supply. Certainly, from both the resource conservation and economy of service viewpoint, coordination among all utilities within the respective regions should be a major objective."

What are the implications of all this as regards EPIC? First, let's zero in on the more important facts presented in this report. The cost of producing and distributing electricity are going to rise dramatically, with the greatest increase attributable to the generation phase, as it becomes the dominant cost factor in producing usable electricity. This is exactly the area in which EPIC will be of greatest benefit, so any savings in the cost of generation will represent a greater percentage reduction in the bill received by the consumer.

One of the most critical elements in the increasing cost picture is the price and availability of debt capital. This factor will play an increasingly larger role as the need for new facilities continues its compounded growth, with no conceivable abatement in sight.

Here again, EPIC is tailor-made to provide relief. An overwhelming proportion of the financing for the EPIC system will be via the municipal bond route, which not only carries a lower interest rate but is, to a great extent, more marketable than conventional debt issues.

As the need for additional financing for the electric utility industry approaches astronomical levels, it just makes sense to tap all segments of the investing public. It is well recognized in the investment banking business that it is essentially different investors who purchase municipal bonds, as compared with conventional bonds.

On the environmental front EPIC is also in a unique position. There is no reservoir of resentment on the public's part from past actions of EPIC which have contributed to a deteriorating environment. Also, EPIC would not be saddled with polluting facilities which would have to be upgraded at great expense to meet environmental standards now being set by all strata of governmental entities.

Above all, the members of EPIC, both municipal and cooperative, would be ill-advised to ignore the implications of the report's recommendation regarding consolidation and/or coordination.

The public is not going to sit idly by and allow small, inefficient utilities to continue in operation merely because they now exist. And, certainly the larger generating utilities will be looking for consolidation through absorption.

The only logical avenue for locally-owned utilities to avoid becoming the inefficient systems that are "merged" into a larger entity is to enter the generation and transmission phase of the industry. This is the only component of the total cost picture that can be significantly reduced.

When you consider that power generation will account for an even larger percentage of total costs, no other course of action is realistically open. By combining municipal and cooperative loads, EPIC has achieved a size more than sufficient to take advantage of all possible economies of scale normally associated with large vertically-integrated power companies.

In conclusion, then, the electric utility industry presents a "tangled picture at the moment," says the FPC National Power Survey. This less than rosy situation has been caused by innumerable factors, the overwhelming majority of which are the fault of none. It would be tempting to conclude that the investor-owned utilities could have prevented the present predicament. It just can't be done. But that is not to say that the emergence of new generation and transmission systems, such as EPIC, will not help to alleviate the multiplicity of problems facing the electric utility industry.

It is worth noting that recent public opinion surveys indicate that the preponderant portion of the consumers in this country are much more concerned with receiving a reasonably-priced, assured supply of electricity rather than with the nature of the species serving them.

This can be a blessing in that a favorable public attitude climate exists for the launching of EPIC. Yet, it is also a warning to smaller distribution systems that inefficiency will not be long tolerated merely for historical reasons. This is why it is so important that the EPIC membership now work together to insure that, in future years, the existence of the EPIC system will be looked on as a historic reality.

CFC

On The Move

What the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Is, What It Does, and How

The average annual income of the average American family in 1970 was \$3,920. At the present rate of inflation, this family will be required to increase its income by 3.4 percent annually just to maintain its current standard of living.

Thus by 1980, this average family must increase its annual income to \$5,729 or about 68%, just to stay where it is financially. This presupposes no additional, unforeseen expenses will be incurred during this period. In short, the family is going to have to run twice as fast just to stay where it is.

The rural electric systems in the United States are in much the same position. The only difference is these cooperatives can be sure they are going to be required to face many additional expenses in the years ahead — a dramatic increase in the cost of everything they must use and do to operate efficiently, provide dependable service and meet environmental requirements.

Current projections indicate the rural electric will require from \$8 to \$10 billion within the next 10 years just to keep up with demand more than the total invested in rural electrification in its 37-year history. Translated into terms of individual system requirements, practically every rural electric cooperative will be required to double its investment in plant within the next decade.

Already, the rural electrification program's loan requirements are exceeding \$1 billion annually. A recent survey indicates the need for \$2.2 billion in new capital by July 1973.



Where is this money to come from? The gap between the amount Congress has appropriated for the REA loan program each year and the actual program needs has been growing wider each year. Some means of filling a portion of this gap has been badly needed — a financing program that would serve to supplement the REA loan funds.

Until less than two years ago, the rural electrification program looked to REA as its only source of growth capital. Using these loan funds, the rural electric systems — starting from a

time when only 10% of the countryside was electrified — now have brought central station service to more than 98% of rural America. With approximately 1,600,000 miles of line, these systems operate about 44% of the nation's distribution lines, serving in 2,700 of the nation's 3,072 counties.

In fiscal 1971, the rural electric systems constructed more than 25,000 miles of line enough to circle the earth. Also, 245,000 consumers were added to the membership rolls. This is the greatest annual increase since 1950. Today, rural electric systems serve almost 21 million farm and rural people.

As industries have begun to look to rural areas for room to expand — as people move from overcrowded cities to the country and commercial enterprises and service industries spring up to meet the needs of those rediscovering rural America — the demands being made upon the rural electric systems have become unprecedented, doubling every 7 to 10 years. Facilities which were once adequate to meet the needs of sparsely settled, almost totally agriculturally oriented rural areas are no longer adequate to meet the needs of an expanding economy. Even the traditional farm user is demanding more and more electricity. The average use of electricity per farm and residential consumer on rural

electric lines has increased by 53% in the last decade.

Any way you look at it, these developments boil down to a growing need for money in large amounts. Just as it is today, this was the situation that faced the 23-man NRECA Long Range Study Committee in 1968 when that group was directed to explore methods of providing supplemental financing for rural electrification in an effort to stretch available dollars to the maximum extent possible.

After approximately two years of study and analysis, consulting with experts outside the program, and seeking the suggestions of the program leadership, the Committee presented its final recommendations to the nations' rural electric systems at the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Atlantic City, N.J., in March, 1969. The systems responded by adopting these recommendations by an overwhelming majority.

As a result, another set of initials was added to the rural electrification program to join the familiar REA, NRECA, etc. CFC, the abbreviation for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, became a part of the rural electric family.

While CFC represented a new approach to supplemental financing, there was nothing dramatically different about the basic concept. The rural electric systems once again turned to the "cooperative" approach to meet a common need. By pooling their resources through a single coordinating agency, they set out to meet a portion of their own financial requirements.

CFC was created as a nationwide cooperative in the image of the local rural electric cooperative.

An independent, non-profit cooperative association, CFC was established in April 1969 for the primary purpose of providing a source of financing to its member rural electric systems to supplement the REA loan program. Based upon the "self-help" concept, the institution represented the united determination of the rural electric systems to do as much as possible to help themselves through the use of their own resources.



J.K. Smith, CFC Governor

All cooperative or non-profit rural electric systems which have borrowed or are eligible to borrow from REA are eligible to become CFC members. Each member, in addition to the payment of a nominal membership fee, subscribes in accordance with a formula to the purchase of Capital Term Certificates (CTCs) maturing in 50 years and bearing 3% interest.

Funds furnished through CTC subscriptions provide the initial capital for CFC and will constitute "equity" for CFC bond issues when additional funds are obtained in the private money market.

CFC is owned and controlled by its member rural electric systems. These members elect a Board of Directors to represent them in setting the policies and establishing the guidelines for the financing institution.

The CFC Board consists of 22 Directors (who serve without compensation) — two from each of the 11 Districts into which the nation has been divided for the purpose of electing Directors. Directors from each District must be from states within the District. One must be a manager and the other a director of a member system. Directors from District 11, which is made up entirely by the District of Columbia, are designated by the Board of NRECA.

The chief executive officer of CFC is called the governor and is employed by the Board of Directors. J.K. Smith, who holds that position, is responsible for carrying out the policies set by the Board and directing the day-to-day operations of the enterprise. Governor

Smith, in turn, employs a staff to assist him in specialized areas of CFC's operations. At present, CFC employs 37 persons in its offices in Washington, D.C.

To enable CFC members to obtain their capital needs which are beyond the amounts available from REA loans, CFC has established and placed into effect several types of loan programs designed to meet the specific financing needs of its members qualifying for such loans. These include long-term, secured distribution loans made concurrently with loans from REA, concurrent power supply loans, and 100% CFC loans. CFC also makes short-term loans for interim financing for emergency needs.

The initial CFC loans are being made from funds supplied CFC through Capital Term Certificates purchased by its members.

As CFC needs additional funds, it will issue its bonds in the capital market. These bonds will be secured by a pledge of first mortgage notes given by the cooperatives for their CFC loans. In this manner, the cooperatives can obtain through CFC their needed supplemental long-term financing on a collective basis rather than each attempting to seek out and make individual arrangements with varying terms and conditions.

Since making its first long-term loan on February 16, 1971, CFC has continued to move forward to help meet the supplemental financing needs of its members. Through June, 1972, the financing institution had approved a total of 518 loans of all types of its member systems, totaling \$149,080,000. Currently, CFC has a membership of 842 systems, including 775 distribution cooperatives, 33 power supply systems, 33 statewide associations, and one national service organization, NRECA.

The story of CFC makes it abundantly clear that when dedicated and determined people join together in a cooperative effort to provide for a common need, that need will be met. This is just as true today as it was 37 years ago when the first rural electric cooperatives were formed.

Clyde E. Denton



All About MICROWAVE OVENS

The use of microwave energy for food cooking purposes has been employed for some 25 years, and thousands of housewives today use microwave ovens in the home. At the end of 1970, approximately 150,000 microwave cooking ovens were estimated to be in use in the United States. Some industry representatives estimate that by 1976, 25 percent of all cooking ovens bought in this country will be microwave ovens.

WHAT ARE MICROWAVES?

Microwaves are a form of electromagnetic energy which is intermediate in frequency and wave length between radio waves and infrared waves.

HOW DO MICROWAVES HEAT?

Microwave energy is absorbed by many materials thereby producing a temperature rise. The degree of heating depends on the moisture content, shape and size, mass and other physical features of the material. In foods, this increase in temperature is rapid and makes it possible to cook foods quickly. Metallic materials, such as oven grids and screens, foil or pans, largely reflect microwave energy (and therefore should not be used in cooking). Glass and many non-metallic wrapping materials allow microwaves to pass through them. Thus, for example, a paper plate does not get hot because it contains no moisture.

WHAT EFFECTS DO MICROWAVES HAVE ON FOOD?

Microwaves, a nonionizing form of radiation, will not make food and other materials radioactive. As in any cooking process, microwave cooking has some effect on the nutritional value of the food, however, most studies have shown that there are no significant nutritional differences in foods heated by microwave radiation when compared to conventional cooking methods. The greatest advantage of the microwave oven is its speed in cooking. A potato can be baked in 3½ to 4 minutes, a 4 lb. roast in 22 minutes, and a steak can be defrosted in 2 minutes. Most manufacturers offer with purchase a book with full information for cooking all types of foods in the microwave oven.

ARE MICROWAVES HARMFUL?

Microwave exposure can cause skin burns and may affect eyes and other organs, but all ovens manufactured since October 1971 have been tested and redesigned according to Federal standards in order to completely do away with the dangers of microwave exposure. The chance of harm is therefore no greater in the microwave oven than in any other appliance in the home when used correctly.

Cardiac Pacemaker Warning: Leakage radiation from microwave ovens can cause some pacemakers (electronical devices used to stimulate or normalize rhythm of hearts with abnormalities) to malfunction although this source of interference should not be considered as the only electrical field which can cause dysfunction of these devices. For additional information on this subject, pacemaker patients should contact their physicians.

WHAT HAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DONE TO PROTECT MICROWAVE OVEN USERS?

As directed by The Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has established an electronic product radiation control program. The Bureau of Radiological Health has been given responsibility for its development and day-to-day conduct. As a part of the program, the Bureau has issued a radiation control standard for microwave ovens. *The standard requires that ovens manufactured after October 6, 1971 shall not emit radiation above specified levels* (five milliwatts per square centimeter at any point five centimeters or more from the external surface of the oven. These standards are below levels at which biological effects have been observed for human beings), *and shall be equipped with at least two independently operating safety interlocks to shut off radiation as oven doors are opened.* Every oven manufactured after October 6, 1971 must carry a label certifying compliance with the Federal standard. It is impossible to state that a particular microwave oven produced prior to the standard is not emitting radiation unless it is tested.

WHAT CAUSES MICROWAVES TO LEAK FROM OVENS?

Surveys have shown that maladjustment of oven door safety interlocks — devices to turn the oven off automatically as the door is opened — frequently cause microwave leakage. Improper oven care, such as allowing grease to build up around a door seal and inadequate servicing also have been identified as important causes of leakage.

HOW CAN ONE TELL IF A MICROWAVE OVEN IS LEAKING RADIATION?

The only way to determine if an oven is emitting microwave radiation is to have it tested with a properly-designed instrument. Most microwave oven dealers will arrange to have an oven tested for leakage upon request. Some commercial service organizations also test ovens.

OUR CONCLUSION?

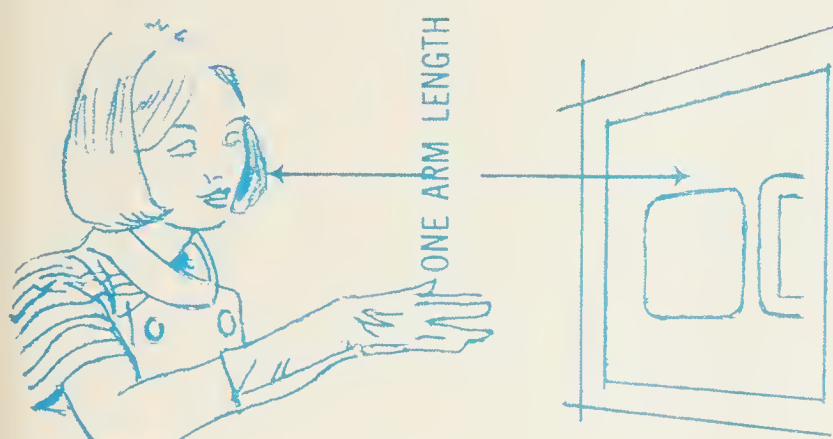
Treated with respect and with cooking instructions followed, the microwave oven can not help but be the most revolutionary and helpful new appliance in the kitchen today — the lifesaver of working women and busy housewives!

MICROWAVE oven SAFETY TIPS

The following safety tips for microwave oven users are suggested by the U. S. Public Health Service:

1 Read the instruction manual for the manufacturer's recommendations for safe operation of the oven.

2 Examine the oven for evidence of shipping damage before operating.



3 Stay at least a full arm's length away from the front of an operating oven.



4 Switch the oven off before opening the door.

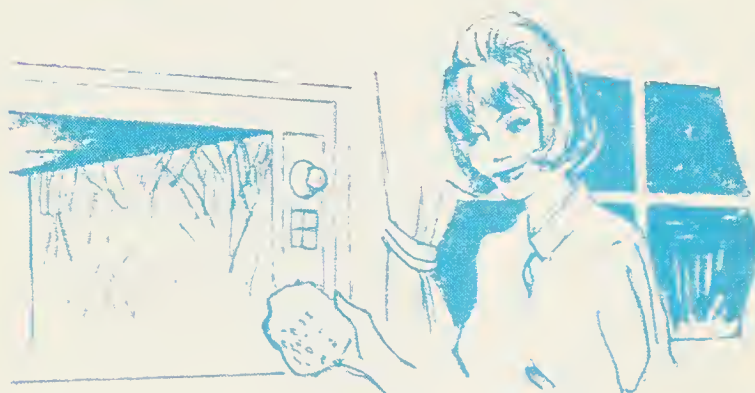
5 Do not allow children near the viewing port to watch the cooking of food.

6 Never insert objects (for example, a fork prong, aluminum foil, wire) through the door grille or around the door seal.

7 Never tamper with or inactivate the oven safety interlocks.

8 Never operate an empty oven.

9 Do not use metal cookware or place metal foils in oven.



10 Frequently clean oven cavity, door and seals with water and mild detergent. Do not wash with scouring pads, steel wool or other abrasives.

11 Have oven regularly serviced by a qualified serviceman for signs of wear, damage or tampering.

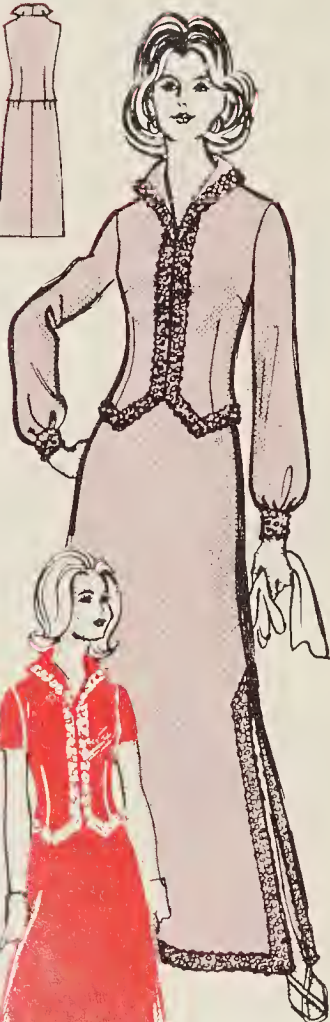
12 Do not operate the oven if there is damage to door or viewport.



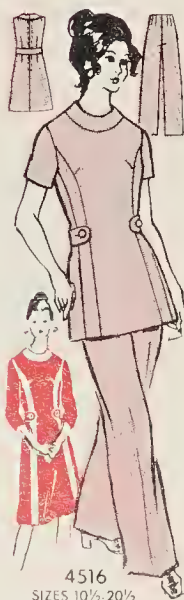
FASHION FAVORITES



4859
SIZES
10½ 20½



9123
SIZES
8-18



4516
SIZES 10½-20½



4688
SIZES
7-15



9040 SIZES 8-18



4659
SIZES 2-8

ABOUT THE HOUSE

Guide to Roofing

Got a question about roofing? The answer is likely to be in a handy booklet, "A Homeowner's Guide to the Selection of Quality Roofing." It covers everything from selection of a contractor to choice of materials, and even contains a color guide. To obtain, send 25 cents to SR&A, Box 3202, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Removes Decals

Use tepid vinegar to remove decals from any surface.

Easier Cleaning

Attach cup hooks on the underside of the bed to hold cords from blankets, lamps, clocks, etc., to keep them out of the way of the vacuum cleaner.

Good Cleaners

The embossed type dinner napkins make very good lint free cleaners for eye glasses.

Pencil Sharpener

If you have trouble sharpening a very soft pencil, especially some of the new eyeshadow or lipstick pencils, try using an emery board.

You can create a very sharp point without any breakage.

Moving Time Saver

Moving? Use clean terrycloth towels instead of newspaper to pack clean dishes. When you unpack in your new home, they will all be ready to use.

Great Window Cleaner

Take 1/3 cup rubbing alcohol, 2/3 cup water, few drops liquid bluing and mix together. Put in a spray bottle. Spray on windows and wipe dry with a soft clean cloth. Then polish with a crumpled newspaper.

Pattern No. 9040 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Pattern No. 9123 is cut in sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
Pattern No. 4688 is cut in sizes 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15.
Pattern No. 4516 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½ and 20½.
Pattern No. 4859 is cut in sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½ and 20½.
Pattern No. 4659 is cut in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Send 75 cents in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to:
CAROLINA COUNTRY, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York,
N. Y. 10011. For first class mail, add 15 cents
for each pattern. Be sure to include your
full address, zip code and pattern size.



KITCHEN CORNER

A BIG SECRET

This month's recipe is a mystery even to Mrs. Carrie V. Gay who sent it to us.

Passed along to her in hand-written form by her mother, Mrs. Gay has never been sure of its origin. It is very aptly called "Big Secret Raisin Pie."

The Gays who are members of Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation in Jackson have enjoyed it for years and now that the secret is out, we hope you will, too.

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share through this column, send it to: Brenda Sargent, Kitchen Corner, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Tell us something about the recipe, your family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay \$2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA COUNTRY RECIPE

Big Secret Raisin Pie

*Submitted by Mrs. Carrie V. Gay, Rt. 1, Box 130,
Jackson, N.C.*

1 c. raisins	1/4 tsp. salt
2 c. water	1 Tbs. butter
2 eggs	2 Tbs. lemon juice
2 Tbs. flour	1 baked pie shell
1/2 c. sugar	

Cook raisins in water about 10 minutes. Drain — reserve juice. Combine flour, sugar, salt, egg yolks and liquid in saucepan. Bring mixture to boil. Remove from fire and add butter, raisins and lemon juice. Fill pie shell. Cover with meringue.



NEEDLE CRAFT

Pattern No. 7188

Make peasant top in sheer cotton, denim, linen and finish with gay embroidery.



7188

SIZES

S 10 12

M 14 16

L 18-20



7174

Pattern No. 7174

Back is a square, front is 2 triangles — a real quickie!



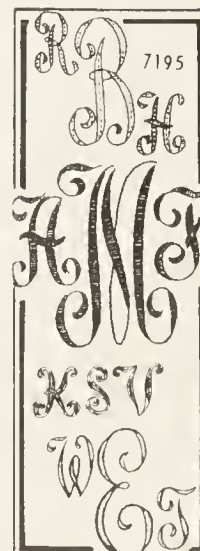
7484

Pattern No. 7484

Knit and purl these two tank tops in the gay rippled design.

Pattern No. 7195

Add an individual touch to accessories, fashions, gifts through embroidery.



Send 75 cents (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, Needlecraft Dept., Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. Print your name, address, zip code and pattern number.

Introducing Weldon Denny, New Chairman of N.C. REA



Weldon B. Denny

The chairmanship of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority has passed to a Surry County native who has been working with and for rural people practically all of his 46 years.

Weldon B. Denny, a special assistant to Governor Bob Scott, was named State REA chairman succeeding Gwyn B. Price. The appointment was announced by the Governor June 30, the date of Mr. Price's retirement, and became effective August 1.

In keeping with the current reorganization of State government, Denny, who lives in Raleigh, will also serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

The new department, headed by Secretary G. Irving Aldridge, was formed by pulling together a number of previously separate agencies, including the Rural Electrification Authority, the Utilities Commission, the Industrial Commission, the Banking Commission, the Milk Commission, the Employment Security Commission, the Burial Commission and the State Board of Alcoholic Control, along with the Building and Loan Division from the Insurance Department and the Credit Union Division from Agriculture Department.

Denny was born January 25, 1926, the son of Pilot Mountain country preacher, George Denny, who had 11 children — eight boys and three girls.

The Rev. Mr. Denny owned a couple of farms and he was fond of telling his tenants: "Plant anything you're of a mind to, because I've got

plenty of labor for you over at my place."

After graduating from Pilot Mountain High School in 1942, Denny found his plans for college interrupted by World War II. In 1944 he married a Surry County girl, Sue Lane of Pinnacle. They have one child, a son Rick who is in the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg.

The couple spent their first year on the farm. Then, in 1946, Denny went to work with the Production Marketing Administration (PMA) in Dobson on a temporary basis.

That temporary arrangement lasted more than 22 years.

Denny was made county office manager for PMA in 1949 and continued in this post until July, 1956, when he was transferred to the agency's State office. By then PMA had taken on another name — the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Denny started in Raleigh as chief of the Compliance Division. By 1961 he was chief of the Administrative Division.

Three years later, he went to Washington with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1966 he returned to Raleigh as State Director of ASCS. He continued in that capacity until March, 1969, when he joined Governor Scott's staff as a specialist in federal-state relations and as liaison man between the Governor and various agencies of the State government.

Denny was honored as ASCS "Employee of the Year" in North Carolina in 1955. He received the

ASCS "Distinguished Service Award" twice in 1962 and 1966. Former Governor Dan K. Moore appointed him to the Food and Fiber Commission. He served six years as a panel member of the U.S. Board of Civil Service Examiners. By virtue of the jobs he held, he served as chairman of the USDA Defense Board.

Denny's first reaction to his appointment as REA chairman was to salute his predecessor.

"North Carolina has one of the most effective rural electrification programs in the country, and a lot of the credit must go to Gwyn Price," Denny commented. "I want to be able to see it enjoy continued success. More than that, it is my hope that the REA will broaden its field of concern by doing much more to promote rural development in all its aspects.

"In this day and time, REA can play a very distinct and very important role by coming up with new ideas and new projects to develop rural America. In this connection, I plan to work closely with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, the North Carolina Extension Service and others, especially the electric and telephone cooperatives and public utility companies."

As Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Denny expects to be involved more with the program side than with the management or administrative side.

This is in keeping with his nature. Denny is, by preference, more of a practitioner than a theorist, more of an Indian than a chief.

CONSUMER NEWS

This article has been prepared with the assistance of the North Carolina State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. If you have a complaint or information about unfair or deceptive trade practices, notify the Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 629, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

TRADE SCHOOLS CAUSING SOME CONSUMERS PROBLEMS. We receive a number of complaints from people who have had problems with trade schools. Anyone who is considering attending this type of school should think carefully before signing a contract, and should investigate the company.

Some trade schools place deceptive ads in the help wanted sections of newspapers. People have complained that what appeared to be an ideal job, which included training, turned out to be a solicitation for a trade school. One young man lost \$285, when he agreed to take a drafting course, which had been advertised as a drafting job, from a fly-by-night company. When he arrived at the school's out-of-state location, he found it did not exist. Nobody knew anything about the drafting school, and the man who had taken his money had vanished without a trace.

We receive letters from people who have had problems with data processing schools, truck driving, detective, and airline training schools, modeling schools and personal motivation courses. Many of these people tell us they were the victims of misrepresentation or false advertising. The ads and representatives of the schools promise tremendous starting salaries. Often they guarantee job placement or claim that there are hundreds of openings in their field just waiting to be filled. People who have taken these courses say they were led to believe the schools would provide new equipment for training, qualified instructors and comfortable, modern accommodations. People who found these claims to be false, often had difficulty in getting their money

refunded. We have been able to help many of them obtain refunds or tuition adjustments.

Many of these schools make appointments to meet prospective students in hotels and motels. In the past, they have solicited business in individuals' homes. Since the passage of the Retail Installment Sales Act, which gives consumers three days to cancel credit contracts which are solicited in their homes, these schools may be hoping to deny consumers this option by arranging meetings in hotels and motels.

The Consumer Protection Division urges North Carolinians who encounter false or deceptive advertising of trade schools to notify us at once.

NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION TELEVISION REPORTS. North Carolina television stations are providing state viewers with a new public service. The Consumer Protection Division is working closely with several stations across the state to produce a series of timely consumer protection messages.

The programs feature Assistant Attorney General Eugene Hafer, who describes various frauds and schemes our office is investigating. Occasionally, programs are devoted to explanations of consumer protection laws or interviews with interesting guests.

The programs can be seen on WSOC-TV in Charlotte as part of its Saturday evening news; on High Point's WGHP-TV at 11 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; on Asheville's WLOS-TV as a weekly feature on the Woman's Program at 10:30 to 11 a.m. and on educational television's WUNC-TV Chapel Hill; WUND-TV, Columbia; WUNE-TV, Linville; WUNF-TV, Asheville; WUNG-TV, Concord; WUNJ-TV, Wilmington, and WUNK-TV, Greenville at 7 p.m. each Thursday.

We invite you to tune in to these public service messages. We think they will help you protect yourself from fraud and also help you become a better informed, more knowledgeable, consumer.

BEST OF BOOKS

JOYLEG. By Avram Davidson and Ward Moore. Walker & Co. 233 pages. \$5.95.

The President changed the name of his jet from "Air Force One" to "The Spirit of '76." That's fine, but what was the spirit of 1776?

If you really know your American history, you know the spirit which brought our nation into being was indomitable, rebellious independence. Not the idealistic kind we were told about in school, but incorrigible, anti-establishment, personal independence.

And that's what *Joyleg* is all about and what makes it a novel we all might do well to read this election year and as we prepare to celebrate the bicentennial of our independence in 1976.

For North Carolinians, *Joyleg* holds a special appeal, because the incorrigible (make-believe) patriot Isachar Joyleg was among other things an ex-captain in the North Carolina militia and governor of Franklin, the province we lost to Tennessee.

Political satire is hard to carry off. At its best, it like that of Jonathan Swift's exposes hypocrisy with grotesque fantasy. *Joyleg* isn't quite *Gulliver*, but it serves the same ends: It makes us see ourselves and our political institutions as we and they really are.

Jim Chaney

WANTED SUB-CONTRACTORS

Jim Walter Homes has work available for contract with framing sub-contractors in all parts of the state. Plenty of work at all times, sub-contractor must have adequate crew, tools and transportation.

For more information

Write or Call

N. D. ZEIGLER

Phone (704) 392-4412

P.O. Box 8046

Charlotte, N.C. 28208

Jim Walter Homes

Should A Girl Who Becomes Pregnant Be Forced To Stop School?

"No, I don't think a girl who becomes pregnant should be forced to stop school; because everywhere we turn, people, television, radio are telling teenagers to stay in school and that to get a good job, you need a good education. Well, how is this girl going to get a good education if she is forced to stop school. If she thinks she can stay in and keep up her grades, she should be given the chance. She is still a "citizen" of her school and I think forcing her out is wrong. The decision should be hers."

Loretta Bazemore
Rt. 4, Box 245 B
Windsor

Loretta is a rising senior at Bertie Senior High and her hobbies include writing poetry and jokes. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron V. Bazemore, are served by Roanoke EMC.

"No, a girl that's forced to stop school will be hurt in many ways the rest of her life. The fact still remains, 'to get a good job, you need a good education.' Most certainly a girl who has the responsibility of a child needs a good job and the only way she'll get it is by finishing school."

Mable L. Hayes
Rt. 1, Box 128
Marston

Mable is a rising junior at Scotland High School. Her hobbies are basketball, baseball and singing. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hayes, are served by Pee Dee EMC.

"I believe that a girl who becomes pregnant should be able to continue her education. If she is forced to quit

school there is a strong possibility that she will never return and finish at all.

As long as she is in good health and has her doctor's permission, I think that its the best thing she could do. Married or not, it makes no difference. If she wants to go to school she should be able. A few people should not have it in their hands to say whether she can continue school."

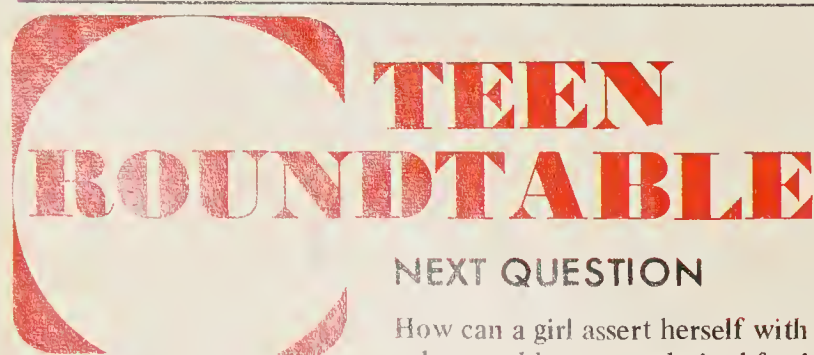
Peggy Barefoot Darden
Rt. 2
Dunn

Peggy is 19 and a housewife with a 2 year-old daughter. She enjoys all sports and would like some day to be able to help teach mentally retarded children. She and her husband are served by South River EMC.

"I definitely think she should not. This is the year 1972 ... a new age. Everyone knows that in order to tackle today's problems a good education is necessary. I feel that should a girl become pregnant, she should be able to complete her education in any public school. She has as much right as anyone else. Today, the young unmarried mothers are looked down on and denied the 'good world.' This is wrong. Just because a girl has made a mistake, she should not have to suffer by the loss of educational opportunities."

Loretta Moore
Rt. 1, Box 269
Warsaw

Loretta is 17 and will be a senior at James Kenan High School in the fall. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Euray P. Moore are served by Four County EMC.



NEXT QUESTION

How can a girl assert herself with others and be more admired for it?

This question was submitted by Dorothy Kernstine of Route 2, Box 60, Bear Creek. Dorothy is a senior at Chatham Central High School and enjoys sewing, reading and drawing. Her family is served by Central EMC.

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, Carolina country, P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N.C. 27602 at once. Tell us a few facts about yourself — your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you \$5. If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used the sender will get a \$5 check.



POET'S CORNER

VERSES FROM OUR READERS

Certain Truth

Balloons,
Like People,
Fly high
When Inflated,
But, droop
With a sigh
When lost
And Deflated!

Dorothy C. Isbell
Miami, Fla.

A Pleasant Moment

I saw a little boy and girl
Running down a hill,
They skipped a while and played a while,
Near an old windmill.

It was a warm and sunny day.
Their laughter filled the air.
He won the race of course,
And she pretended not to care.

The boy made a little boat
He floated in the pond.
The girl made a flower necklace
As she sang a pretty song.

It was a pleasant scene to watch
The children as they played.
Then I heard their Mother call
And I watched them skip away.

Kay Lynn
Rt. 7, Hickory



In your article (in May) on farming sizes, production, etc., you mention the large increase in production per farm worker. This is in line with current trends. However, you failed to mention the tremendous increase in farm sizes. This, I think accounts for the increase per man. The farmer certainly does not have to work as hard as he used to . . . Yes, I was born on a North Alabama farm and can recall the hard work and an average of one bale of cotton per acre.

C.R. Vann
Scaly Mtn.

The Heart Turns Home

Too long away, she opened wide the door
And cobwebbed windows: feather-swept the floor,
Replaced the homespun cloth and earthen-ware,
Then wound the clock to pendulum the air.
Dipping the moss-rimmed pail into the well
She paused to hear a blackbird sentinel
Exclaim at her return. On up the hill
Last winter's grave gleamed gold with daffodil.

The fieldstone hearth sparked courage with its flame,
The kettle sang, whispering warm his name.
Grief's iron band relaxed its hurting hold
As she recalled his laughter, tender, bold . . .

And her lips curved soft in a reminiscent smile
At thought of love's reunion . . . in a while.

Dorothy Webber
Coral Gables, Fla.

Magic of Carolina

Two Cardinals sat upon a branch . . .
Of a very barren tree.
Winters' white . . . was everywhere . . .
Oh, what a sight to see.
To think of the winters' snow . . .
That covers field and dale.
Before the snowfall came.
The birds, they seem to tell . . .
Of coming winter's weather,
They flutter everywhere.
Gathering bits of food.
Soon the snow is here.
The graceful spiraling snowflakes . . .
Fall upon each tree.
The cotton covered world.
Oh, how it pleases me.
Soon it melts away —
The jonquils peep through.
Spring is fast approaching.
The state will be all new.
The Cardinal is our State bird.
The Dogwood is our tree.
Carolina all your seasons—
They mean so much to me.
To look up at the mountains . . .
With flowers all abloom.
To think on their beauty.
To know that it is soon . . .
To be replaced by wonder.
Beauty and delight.
The moon rising over the mountains . . .
Spreads a magic light.
Summer will be coming . . .
With warmth and sunny days.

Carolina by the seashore . . .
We come to run and play.
Another season of splendor
In autumn it is grand.
To live in Carolina . . .
This magic wonderland.
Oh, your scenic beauty . . .
The radiance of blue skies.
Carolina in all seasons . . .
Is . . . a magic paradise.

Violet R. Watkins
Rt. 3, Lexington

White Lake Song

(Sing to chorus of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart")

Down in Bladen County there's a lake that's fine;
Crystal clear its waters in the bright sunshine;
Swimming, boating, dancing . . . fishing trips to take;
Many hours of pleasure call you to White Lake.

Goldston's Beach invites you — you'll be welcome there;
Crystal will delight you with its friendly air;
For vacation pleasures here's a tip to take:
Just be sure to visit the Beaches at White Lake.

Thelma Cromartie
Rt. 1, White Oak

Poem

What makes a Poem?
Whatever you feel:
A brand new dress
Or a blue birds nest,
The smell of a fish
Or an unclean dish,
Long lovely brown hair
Or a real old bear,
A real old cat
Or a brand new ball bat,
A very young man,
Or some real hard land,
Some melting snow
Or a real hard hoe
A brand new pen,
A broken down mill,
A real old hen,
Whatever you feel.

Roxie Peele
Goldsboro

Sunrise

Darkness creeps slowly away,
A golden lava spreads across the fields,
Light begins peeping through the trees;
Rays of pink are stealing across the land.
The sky is changing
From black
Into blue.
Clouds are moving
Softly, so softly:
The earth begins to awaken
To the sounds of the day.
Listen and see!
The sun is rising.

Jeanette Davis,
Rt. 1, Ahoskie

If the Job Is Done, It Must

Business has never been better for the utilities industry. Yet things for the consumer — confronted on the one hand by a power crisis and on the other by rising rates — have never been worse. If solutions are to be found, you, the consumer, must act. You can act most effectively through organizations like the North Carolina Consumers Council by asserting yourself in the regulatory process and demanding the adoption of a realistic national energy policy. It won't be easy; the utilities industry has enjoyed its monopoly too long to yield without a fight. But you, the consumer, stand to gain both as a taxpayer and ratepayer if you will face up to the challenge and make the regulatory agencies your taxes support more responsive to your interests.

By Hugh A. Wells

North Carolina Utilities Commission

Measured by almost any index susceptible to objective analysis, the last 35 years have brought more progress in the United States than in the first 250 years of our existence as a nation.

We have seen strides in transportation, communications, science and medicine hardly dreamed of 35 years ago. The technological revolution of just the past 10 years often boggles the minds of the very persons responsible for it.

The staggering progress is rooted in our having mastered the ways and means of a supply of abundant, low-cost energy, chiefly electric energy. Now we find ourselves suddenly tumbling pell mell toward an acute energy crisis. The causes of this alarming development are many and complex. The solution will not be quick or easy.

The basic, underlying cause of our present problem is the rate at which we consume energy in this country. It is almost impossible to comprehend the degree to which we use and the extent to which we spend for coal, natural gas, oil, gasoline, nuclear fuels and electricity.

In 1970, the gross consumption of energy in the United States as measured by British thermal units was approximately 69 quadrillion BTUs. By 1980, that will have increased to 95 quadrillion BTUs. By 1990 it will have reached the incredible level of 140 quadrillion BTUs per year.

These dramatic and dynamic patterns of consumption and energy, communications, and transportation have given rise to a curious set of circumstances.

Business has never been better in the energy field. People are using more electricity, more natural gas, more coal, more oil, and more uranium than ever before. Business has never been better in the communications field. People are buying more telephones, more extensions, making long distance calls, sending more data than ever before. Business has never been better in transportation. People are traveling more and shipping more goods than ever before.

Yet the executives of these public utility businesses are marching to Raleigh (and other capitols throughout the country) every week to tell the regulatory commissions that

they aren't making enough money and must have higher rates. There is an even more curious aspect to these pleas for higher rates. One of the principal reasons, they say, why they must have higher rates is because business is so good that they must build many new facilities, all of which takes money, and in order to get that money, they must have higher rates.

The magnitude of these rate requests is staggering. Last year alone, the North Carolina Utilities Commission dealt with rate increases from public utility firms amounting to over \$100 million per year. It will not be very different in 1972 so we are looking at a situation where in two short years the consumers of this state will have been asked to pay between 150 and 200 million more dollars every year than they have been paying for electricity, natural gas, telephones, truck transportation and bus transportation. These statistics carry with them very serious implications for the consumer. The clear inference can be drawn that by and large, utility management has turned to pricing as the basic tool for dealing with the strong growth which characterizes their industries.

In its most simplistic terms, this economic device can be expressed as follows: Here is a product you have learned to use and like; you want more of the product than we can presently produce; in order to persuade us to produce more, you will have to pay a higher price than you have been paying.

The implications of this policy are that rather than prices going down as more product units are sold and as demand grows, prices go up. In other words, it is the old demand-supply equation, busily at work in the utility industries.

The free enterprise system has a built-in theoretical response to this type of situation — it's called competition; and it's supposed to work like this: Demand goes up; supply falls behind; prices go up; higher prices provide incentive for more producers to enter the market; supply increases to catchup with demand; prices go down.

This set of responses is obviously not applicable to utility pricing, because we are dealing with monopolies. Theoretically, the regulatory commissions are supposed to take the place of competition, and we, the regulators are supposed to keep prices for utility services at a theoretically competitive level.

We are not doing it. Regulation of utilities in this country — especially regulation of utility prices — is a guessing game, characterized by a lack of perception of purpose and an incredible inconsistency in results.

It need not be so. North Carolina's General Statutes clearly states it is "the policy of the State of North Carolina to provide fair regulation of public utilities in the interest of the public" and vest the Utilities Commission "with all power necessary" to require public utilities to provide reasonable service at reasonable rates.

Done by You, the Consumer

Similar lofty declarations of public policy may be found in the laws or statutes of other states, as well as those of the United States. But the gap between policy and practice is so wide as to almost preclude comparison.

Utility regulation in the United States can only be characterized as "permissive" in that regulatory agencies do not promote utility services at any level or at any price; they do not innovate or lead. In the main, they act only in the sense that they react to what the utilities do, and it is exactly in this framework that you, the consumers, are getting lost in the shuffle.

To have regulators who seldom act but mostly react is bad enough for the consumer, but when you come to realize that much too often even our reactions are imprecise and uninformed, based more on attitudes than information, you may begin to perceive what odds the consumer faces when utility executives set out to reprice their products and services.

It would be folly to assume the recent rash of utility rate increases indicate that the worst is over and that things will be settling down. The worst is yet to come — utility prices, particularly those in the energy field, are headed for the moon; or even beyond.

What I read and hear today leads me to believe that the people in the energy business have pretty well made up their minds that if the people of the United States are going to continue to expect and demand abundant energy, they are going to have to pay a dear price for it. I see this attitude manifesting itself not only in the energy industry, but at many levels of government, including regulatory commissions.

Without massive consumer action at all levels, it would not surprise me that within five years, we will see the price of electricity double from today's level, the price of natural gas and petroleum products tripled.

I have no confidence whatsoever that utility management in this country is going to make any serious effort to hold down the price of energy, or to see to it that our people continue to have an abundant supply of low-cost energy.

The job will be done, if at all, by you, the consumer. You must begin to assert your interest vigorously and persistently in the shaping of a rational, viable national energy policy, one which will conserve resources and yet enhance supply. It can be done, but it will not be done short of a major national commitment.

The energy crisis is here. Energy solutions must be found. We need in the energy field a crash program comparable to the Manhattan Project or the Space Program, to develop new and more efficient energy sources and devices.

In the meantime, the regulatory process must be revamped and revised to deal with the problems of these times. We must have a regulatory framework which reflects

the critical consumer interest in utility services and prices.

This can only be accomplished by vigorous public interest, translated into consumer and voter action. You should — you must — find the means to participate effectively in utility rate cases, but you certainly cannot rely on this alone; and if you do, you have two strikes against when you go to bat.

Let me illustrate: I have never heard of a public utility having any portion of a rate case charged against its stockholders. All rate case expenses, come right out of the consumer pocket. This means the utilities can, and do, hire the best legal, economic, and technical brains available to help them get rate increases.

In many cases — some of which have recently happened in North Carolina — they even spend their own ratepayers money to mount massive advertising campaigns to sway public opinion in favor of rate increases. This practice is reprehensible to me, and in all good conscience, should not be allowed.

So, while you must be in the rate cases, if only to show up and make your presence felt, you must start with your legislators, your governor, your commissioners, your congressmen, and your senators to let them know of your concern and interest. After all, we are talking about a function of government — your government, and it's up to you to make it work.

Specifically, I urge your attention to two principal areas of needed policy reform: (1) On the national level, we must have a federally funded and directed energy resource research and development program, and we must have it now. (2) On the state level, we must greatly strengthen the Utilities Commission in two ways:

(A) The Commission's professional staff, especially its accounting and legal staff, must be greatly expanded. We are presently so critically understaffed in these functions that there is no way for us to possibly get the job done.

(B) The hearings function and the administrative function of the Commission should be entirely aloof from the businesses we regulate, as well as from the Commission staff itself. By the very nature of our present structure, the constant, close contact between commissioners and utility executives and between commissioners and the Commission staff make it almost impossible to expect objective, unbiased results. When the Utilities Commission hears rate cases, it sits as a court and its members are judges, who should not only be judges but act like judges, entirely aloof from the litigants.

Reforms of this type will help, but again, they alone will not get the job done. Only alert, vigorous, informed, effective consumer action will assure fair consumer treatment. The role of the consumer in utility rate cases is the critical role, but that role must begin long before the case is called, for if it doesn't, the cause will be lost.

HALE

To The Rear

The private had departed the fighting front and was headed at top speed for the rear area. He was stopped by an officer.

"Don't delay me, sir" said the soldier. "I have got to be on my way."

"Listen," snapped the officer, "do you know who I am?"

"No, sir."

"I'm a general."

"Good Lord!" said the soldier. "I didn't know I'd got that far back yet."

Class Reunions

A class reunion is a time when old schoolmates get together to find out who is falling apart.

Fortuneteller

Fortuneteller: "You will be poor and unhappy until you are 40."

Client: "Then what?"

Fortuneteller: "You'll get used to it!"

Our Marvelous Brains

The human brain is a wondrous organ that starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

Public Office

One of the two candidates for sheriff in a small community was notorious for his dishonesty. When his nextdoor neighbor was asked why she was going to vote for him — since his opponent was a man of unquestioned integrity — she replied: "I look at it this way, if a man isn't ruined when he goes into office, he's ruined when he comes out. And there isn't any use in ruining a good man."

Heavy Foot

The elderly lady zoomed past a state trooper who was cruising along at the speed limit. He gave chase and when he had brought her to a stop he asked for her driver's license.

The elderly woman looked at him sharply. "Young man," she said, "how can I be expected to show you my driver's license when you people keep taking it away from me?"

What A Comeback

The neighborhood gossip approached Mrs. Brown just bursting with excitement.

"You'll never guess who I saw at the beach yesterday," she began.

"Well, who did you see?" queried Mrs. Brown, knowing that this was what she was expected to say.

"Your 27-year-old son, Jack," declared the gossipy woman triumphantly, "and he was cavorting with a blond in a bikini!"

"Well, retorted Mrs. Brown, "what did you expect at his age . . . a pail and shovel?"

Limited Time

The young lawyer was presenting his first case and was most anxious to make a good impression. He began his summation with: "Long ago, before the world was created . . ."

"Excuse me," the judge interrupted. "We're very busy this morning. Would you mind starting after the flood?"



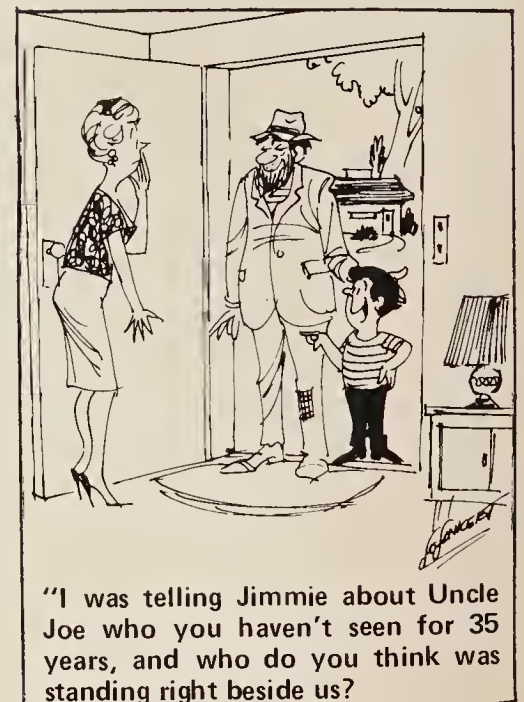
The Comedian

"Poor old Harry got the bird properly last night," said one comedian to another. "They hissed him right off the stage. Then I came on. The audience quieted down and listened to my first number, and then just as I went into my new routine, blamed if they didn't start hissing old Harry all over again."

The High And the Low Of It

"So you're lost, little boy," said the lady. "Why didn't you hang on to your mother's skirt?"

Wailed the youngster, "I tried, but I couldn't reach that high!"



"I was telling Jimmie about Uncle Joe who you haven't seen for 35 years, and who do you think was standing right beside us?"

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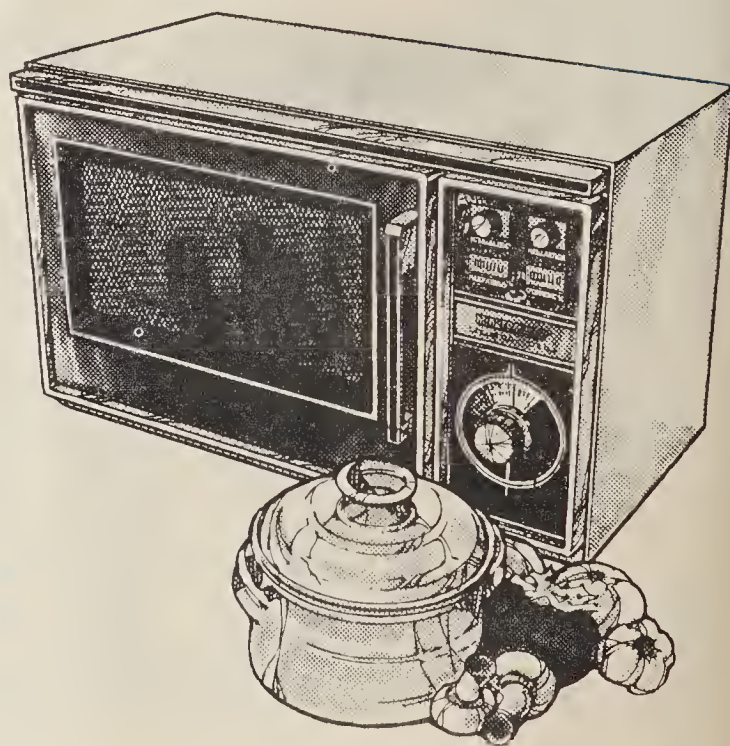
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